

### Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Original)** A lipase inhibitor comprising an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* as an active ingredient.

2. **(Original)** A lipase inhibitor comprising a purified substance of the extract according to claim 1 as an active ingredient.

3. **(Currently amended)** The lipase inhibitor according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, which is in the form of food and drink.

4. **(Original)** The lipase inhibitor according to claim 3, which is in the form of healthy food or food for specified health uses for the treatment and/or prevention of obesity.

5. **(Original)** The lipase inhibitor according to claim 3, which is in the form of healthy food or food for specified health uses for the treatment and/or prevention of hyperlipemia.

6. **(Original)** A plasma triglyceride-lowering agent comprising an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* as an active ingredient.

7. **(Original)** A method of inhibiting lipase activity, which comprises administering an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* to a mammal.

8. **(Original)** A method of treating and/or preventing obesity or hyperlipemia, which comprises administering an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* to a mammal.

9. **(Original)** A method of lowering plasma triglyceride, which comprises administering an extract of *Ascophyllum nodosum* to a mammal.

**10. (Currently amended)** ~~Use of an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum~~ A method for producing a medicine or food and drink which inhibits lipase activity, which comprises preparing an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum as an active ingredient.

**11. (Currently amended)** ~~Use of an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum~~ A method for producing a medicine or food and drink for treating and/or preventing obesity or hyperlipemia, which comprises preparing an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum as an active ingredient.

**12. (Currently amended)** ~~Use of an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum~~ A method for producing a medicine or food and drink which lowers plasma triglyceride, which comprises preparing an extract of Ascophyllum nodosum as an active ingredient.